

Statement of Len Kocis, D.C.
before the
Insurance and Real Estate Committee
February 11, 2010

HB
5009

Senator Crisco, Rep. Fontana and members of the committee:

My name is Leonard Kocis. I am a Chiropractic Physician who practices in Torrington. I am Board Certified in Occupational Health and also the legislative committee chair of the Connecticut Chiropractic Association, and represent our members today.

CCA supports Senate Bill 14, *An Act Prohibiting Co-Payments for Preventive Care*.

The bill will prohibit patient co-pays for annual physicals, pre-natal and well-baby check-ups, immunizations, and programs that relate to tobacco cessation and obesity weight loss. We believe the intent of this bill is very good. Clearly, some people might be deterred from seeing a medical professional due to a \$35 or \$50 co-pay, especially when they don't feel they have any burning health issue. But you and I know that prevention and early detection of illness is key. SB 14 will help in this regard. It incents consumers to be proactive with their health, and CCA strongly supports this concept.

CCA also supports House Bill 5009, *An Act Concerning Wellness Programs and Expansion of Health Insurance Coverage*. Section 13 of the proposal would require state-regulated health insurance policies to include a wellness component that would reward individuals who participate in the program. Again, the focus of this is right on target as far as encouraging individuals to undertake more healthy lifestyles. Since its inception, Chiropractic has been promoting wellness, healthy lifestyles, nutritional guidelines, laboratory analysis and injury prevention. These elements are an important part of a Chiropractor's education and training. In my work as an injury prevention consultant, I have seen firsthand the great need to improve our state worker's overall health. A program that promotes wellness is the first step in creating a healthier population.

We stand ready to assist the committee as it moves SB 14 and HB 5009 forward during the session. Thank you.